

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for structuring a group of companies comprising the steps of:
assembling a core foundry class including a group of core foundry individuals associated with a foundry entity, the core foundry individuals including at least one first core foundry individual for providing overall corporate management guidance, at least one second core foundry individual for providing technical expertise, at least one third foundry individual for providing marketing expertise and at least one fourth foundry individual for providing legal expertise;

assembling a plurality of member companies for development by the foundry entity;
providing financial assistance from the foundry entity to each of the member companies;

determining, for each of the member companies, areas of expertise that the member company does not have, including technical, marketing and legal areas of expertise;

assigning, for each member company in each area of expertise that the member company does not have, at least one individual from the core foundry class to assist in providing that expertise to the member company; and

growing the member companies by providing active participation by each of the individuals in the core foundry class in each of the member companies to which the core foundry class individual has been assigned.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including the step of assembling a technical advisory board for each of the member companies, the technical advisory board being assembled by the foundry entity and the respective member company.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein each technical advisory board contains at least one member who is not employed by the foundry, not employed by the member company, and has at least one of managerial and executive experience in the industry being targeted by the company.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a group of the member companies has a similar technical or market orientation.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein at least two of the core foundry individuals have backgrounds consistent with the similar of technical market orientation.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 4, where the similar technical orientation is communications.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the similar technical orientation is broadband communications.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the second core foundry individual has a background in broadband communications, and at least two other core foundry individuals have a background in broadband communications.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein one of the core foundry individuals initially sits on the board of directors for each of the member companies.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
when the services of one of the core foundry individuals is no longer needed by a particular member company, reassigning the core foundry individual to assist another member company in the field of expertise of the core foundry individual.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing active participation includes negotiating a license on behalf of at least one of the member companies and aggregating vendor discounts.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing active participation includes assisting in the development of product specifications.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing active participation includes assisting in the construction of an integrated circuit using integrated circuit design tools.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
licensing intellectual property among the foundry entity and a group of at least one member company to increase the group of member companies' chance of success in the marketplace.

15-21. (Canceled).